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T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM
August 18, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY

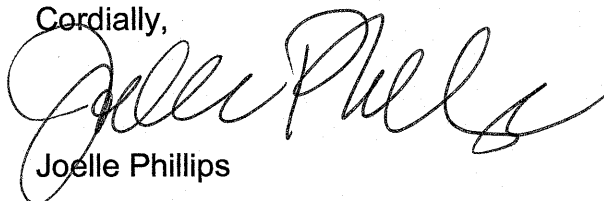
Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Chairman Tate:

Enclosed are the original and fourteen copies of an *Update on Status of Discussions with ICOs, BellSouth and CMRS Providers*. Copies of the enclosed are being provided to counsel of record.

Cordially,



Joelle Phillips

JJP:ch

cc: Hon. Ron Jones, Hearing Officer

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*

Docket No. 00-00523

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS
WITH ICOS, BELL SOUTH AND CMRS PROVIDERS**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Coalition of Rural Independent Companies ("ICOs") jointly file this update regarding the status of continuing negotiations regarding CMRS originated traffic transiting BellSouth's network and terminating to ICO end-users.


Since the last in-person meeting, held on July 16 and 17, the ICOs and CMRS providers have exchanged further drafts in an effort to reach a mutually acceptable interconnection agreement. These negotiations are ongoing.

In addition to the discussion relating to CMRS and ICO interconnection agreements, the parties have also continued to discuss the fact that the interim arrangement for compensation, set forth in the joint motion by BellSouth and the ICO Coalition dated May 2, 2003, expired at the end of July, 2003. As noted in earlier updates, the parties have made various offers relating to future compensation at the expiration of this current arrangement. Negotiations are continuing regarding this matter. All parties have reserved all rights to present any arguments relating to the treatment of CMRS originated traffic transiting the BellSouth network after expiration of the interim agreement in the event no agreement is reached.


As a separate matter, on August 6 BellSouth and the ICOs made a renewed joint request that BellSouth's Petition for Reconsideration relating to the Primary Carrier Plan matters be held in abeyance for an additional sixty (60) days as the parties continue to negotiate regarding those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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COALITION OF RURAL
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 18, 2003, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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